Dear Sisters and Brothers,

You've probably been bombarded with Meg Whitman's TV ads for months. I have been, too. And, like me, you're probably wondering what this billionaire CEO has to gain by spending $150 million to buy this election. Why would a billionaire who didn’t even care enough about California to vote for 28 years of her adult life want to be Governor?

What’s troubling is that the more we learn about her, the clearer it is that she has a hidden agenda. Whitman is investing millions in the election because, if her policy proposals are implemented, she and her corporate friends will be even richer than they already are...all at the expense of California’s economy, tens of thousands of jobs, and countless working families who are struggling to get by. She’s spent her entire adult life as a corporate executive, slashing jobs and getting obscenely rich in the process. She became a billionaire by stepping all over working people. Her Wall Street agenda for California will help her rich friends make even more money, but it’s very bad news for the rest of us.

Whitman will destroy everything that we’ve worked for. She’ll attack prevailing wage and she’s patently opposed to Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) – she even delivered the keynote speech at the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) conference on fighting PLAs. The anti-union ABC rewarded Whitman’s loyalty with their endorsement in May, and Whitman embraced their agenda, which includes eliminating PLAs and prevailing wage. Whitman even opposes California high-speed rail, which would create as many as a half-million jobs.

The bottom line: Whitman sides with corporations, not us. She made a personal fortune by outsourcing jobs as a corporate executive at companies like eBay and Hasbro. When she left eBay, 40% of the company’s jobs were overseas. If elected, she’ll come after our wages, our jobs and our union.

This election is about Jerry Brown’s Main Street agenda of good jobs, quality education, health care and secure communities vs. Meg Whitman’s job-cutting Wall Street agenda.

Let me tell you what I know about Jerry Brown. He understands how to fix the state. The experience that Jerry Brown would bring to the governor’s seat is simply unparalleled and invaluable. Meg Whitman, of all people, should understand that being governor is not an entry-level job.

As Governor, Brown created over 1.9 million jobs in California. He made California a leader in green energy and has a plan to reinvigorate job growth while simultaneously reducing our dependence on fossil fuel. Brown’s innovative program will create more than half a million green jobs in California through investing in renewable energy technology projects, which produce two to three times as many jobs per dollar as gas, oil or coal and are more likely to stay in California, instead of other states or countries.

He supports high-speed rail. And Jerry knows that to fix the economy we have to invest more in schools, transportation and job training. He will return California to a state that values workers, good wages and, above all else, jobs.

This election is about Jerry Brown’s Main Street agenda of creating good jobs here vs. Meg Whitman’s Wall Street agenda of layoffs and shipping jobs overseas.

The future of our state is at stake. Please join us in supporting the one candidate who can turn this economy around and get California working again: Jerry Brown.

It looks like the Western GeoPower Geothermal Power Plant is back on schedule to break ground in the 1st quarter of 2011. I worked hard on the CURE Project Labor Agreement that covers this work and was very disappointed when the construction schedule was delayed. Getting this project back on track is great news that should offer many employment opportunities.

Other jobs to look forward to include the BUCK Center which recently went out to bid with Northern Electric being awarded the work. We have several projects covered by a PLA with the College of Marin including the new 77,000 square-foot - three story

(continued on page 2)
We have just started a new PV Design and Installation class as of September 11, 2010. The economy has taken a toll on solar installations for schools and government buildings but we are still working to secure this work. I have been meeting with contractors and developers to encourage them to continue the projects using the local union help. We are making some headway but we still have a ways to go. We are going to succeed and secure this work.

We have partnered with Green Ray LED Lighting in Santa Rosa. I am challenging all members to purchase one LED lamp a month for their home and see the changes in your energy use begin. This will start reducing your carbon footprint and start a process of energy reduction that will add up as time goes on. We all have to do our part and this is just one way to make it happen. If we all changed our home lighting to LED, we would reduce the energy use in lighting up to 61% and can reduce your current electric bill. One lamp a month is the challenge.

Congratulations to the last Photovoltaic class. We had a great class that worked hard to get through it. Each time I teach this class there are improvements and minor changes from the prior to be sure we are on top of it. New products are being developed every day and when these are brought out in the Solar Industry News Updates I get twice a week, I call the companies and they are glad to send us samples for instructional purposes. With their help and the dedication the students are showing we are developing a great team for the PV industry. We will be ready when this work breaks loose for our members.

We have a new partner in the solar industry, Solar World. They are going to be giving us special kit pricing on systems up to 20kw. This is good for the members and the contractors for residential and small commercial installations. This is a product that is American made (including the cells) and that is what the IBEW is looking for.

Recently, I have been working with 7 Native American tribes to partner with Local 551 and we are making progress on this. They are looking for training and we are looking for work and together we can achieve both. By working with the Native Americans we are helping ourselves through work on sovereign nation property and membership. We have a lot to gain here and I will continue this work until we have reached the signing.

REMINDERS

- Effective January 1, 2011 the International dues will increase from $28 to $29 per month. BA members will increase from $14 to $15 per month.
- As of January 1, 2011 the State Certification test for General Electrician will be using the 2008 National Electrical Code Book (NEC).
- Member Appreciation Dinner on October 15, 2010. Reservation forms must be returned no later than October 5, only if you plan to attend. Its not too late! If you have sent in and are not able to attend, please let the office know.
- CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS - As of 8/15/10 the minimum credit card payment will be 3 months of International dues. We are doing this in an effort to keep the cost down. Thank you for your cooperation.

CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES

Julian Otte passed on August 31, 2010, Age 89 - Initiated 1947

JOHN LLOYD—MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVE

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INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION 551
Thank you to the volunteers, Dale Krabbe, Jim McQuaid, Eamonn O’Halloran, and John House, who showed up to our first weekly phone bank night here at our union hall. We enjoyed a hot dinner, solidarity, and helping our labor friendly candidates get elected to office. Our future and jobs depend on the outcome of every election. IBEW will be phoning every Wednesday from 6 to 9 pm here at the union hall. If Wednesday doesn’t work in your schedule you can join our other union brothers and sisters to phone any day of the week Monday thru Thursday from 6-9 pm. Dinner is served every night. We are also precinct walking for our candidates every Saturday. These volunteer efforts will be in effect until election day. Please call the hall for more details.

Another big thank you to volunteers Hall Mendenhall and Michael Proctor for the electrical start up of our next Habitat for Humanity home in Healdsburg. These two homes on one lot will have solar installed. This is a great opportunity to put your photovoltaic skills to use. Apprentices are also encouraged to volunteer.

Thank you Leland Cole, Sergio Sales and Michael Stone for volunteering their time on the Habitat for Humanity Restore. They were not mentioned in the last newsletter.

Happy Retirement to past President Bruce Piper. A very nice party was held at W. Bradley Electric, Bruce’s employer for the past 18 years. Thanks for many years of service! You will be missed!

OEFCU processes all vacation pay for our Local Union. Vacation Pay on deposit at the Credit Union that is not accessed at least onetime within a 12-month period becomes “dormant” and subject to escheatment. State Law requires all accounts that do not have member contact in a three or more year period to be turned over to the State.

If you’ve worked under a Labor Agreement that was eligible for Vacation Pay but never accessed your OEFCU Vacation account, please contact the Credit Union today at (800)877-4444. In order to keep your account active, OEFCU needs to hear from you as soon as possible.

NOTE: If you access your OEFCU account on a regular basis (or at least once per year), this State Law does not apply and no action is required.

On a dispatch note: When you are laid off from any job you must report to dispatch by the end of the next following day.

Please read below, this is #10 of the dispatching rules available at the union hall and also posted on our website at www.ibewlocal551.org.

“Any applicant for employment who is referred to a job or jobs, and works a cumulative total of 120 hours or less, and is laid off (Reduction in Force) through circumstances beyond their control, subject to verification, shall be restored to their appropriate place on all Available-for-Work Registers (Books) within their qualifying Group as indicated on their registration form at the time of re-sign. The Applicant must report to dispatch by the end of the next dispatch day following termination, with termination slip and all checks stubs showing total hours worked.”

Excerpt from the Inside Construction Agreement: Section 2.24: Age Ratio “On all jobs requiring five (5) or more Journeyman, at least every fifth Journeyman, if available, shall be 50 years of age or older.”

“NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE for we are not electricians, we are magicians.” Author Unknown
Greetings from the North,

It has been an eye-opening few months for me. Despite the acute need for job creation, the possibility of restarting the Samoa pulp mill appears to be a subject that cannot get the vigorous support of our government. Mind you, the mill owner was not looking for a grant, but rather a bridge loan for about 6 months to get the mill producing pulp, at which time there is financing in place for operating the mill. With a strong business plan in place, a sustainable supply of raw material that will also improve the health of the local forests, a sale contract in place for the pulp, and an owner committed to restoring 200+ direct union jobs along with ~1000 indirect jobs, this project apparently does not fit the “green” job model that everyone is in love with these days. Very ironic that this mill is the only chlorine free pulp mill in the world, the cleanest pulp producing technology available, and cannot attract funding while at the same time China is building new mills without the same environmental impact consideration and labor protections so we can import paper products. Rest assured that the Humboldt Building Trades Council and Local 551 has not sat back during this effort to gather support for the mill, and continues to fight to restore the industrial base in this area. While most of our local elected officials will state that they are in favor of this project, what has been missing is the hard push necessary by them to exhaust every possibility available to restore all those good jobs. A quote that applies now is, “Don’t mistake activity for achievement.”

INSIDE CONSTRUCTION PENSION

Variable pension forms were mailed out on September 20 and need to be received back in this office no later than October 20. Return this form only if you want to change your current contribution rate.

Save Money.....Pay your dues on time and save $30.00 (A members) or $3.00 (BA members). Dues are due by the last day of the third month delinquent. Example: You will owe a reinstatement fee if you are only paid thru July on October 31

DAVID BORGESON - BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE

INSIDE CONSTRUCTION PENSION MEMBER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

All active eligible members of the Redwood Empire Electrical Workers Health and Welfare Plan (REEW) and their eligible dependents are entitled to the benefits of MAP. You must contact 1-877-225-2267 before beginning treatment and tell them you are an active member of REEW to receive services. After a brief conversation they will help you get access to the most appropriate provider for your needs. They offer a wide variety of services from legal assistance, work issues, substance abuse & recovery, emotional well being, financial planning and parenting and child care etc.